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Bitton

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(54) **PRODUCT CONTAINER STRAINER**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/137,404, filed on Jun. 11, 2008, now Pat. No. 8,393,490.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/934,204, filed on Jun. 11, 2007.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

B65D 17/34 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

USPC **220/271**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 220/269, 271, 361, 370, 371, 372;
222/189.06, 189.09, 189.07, 189.11;
210/466, 464, 468, 469

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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* cited by examiner

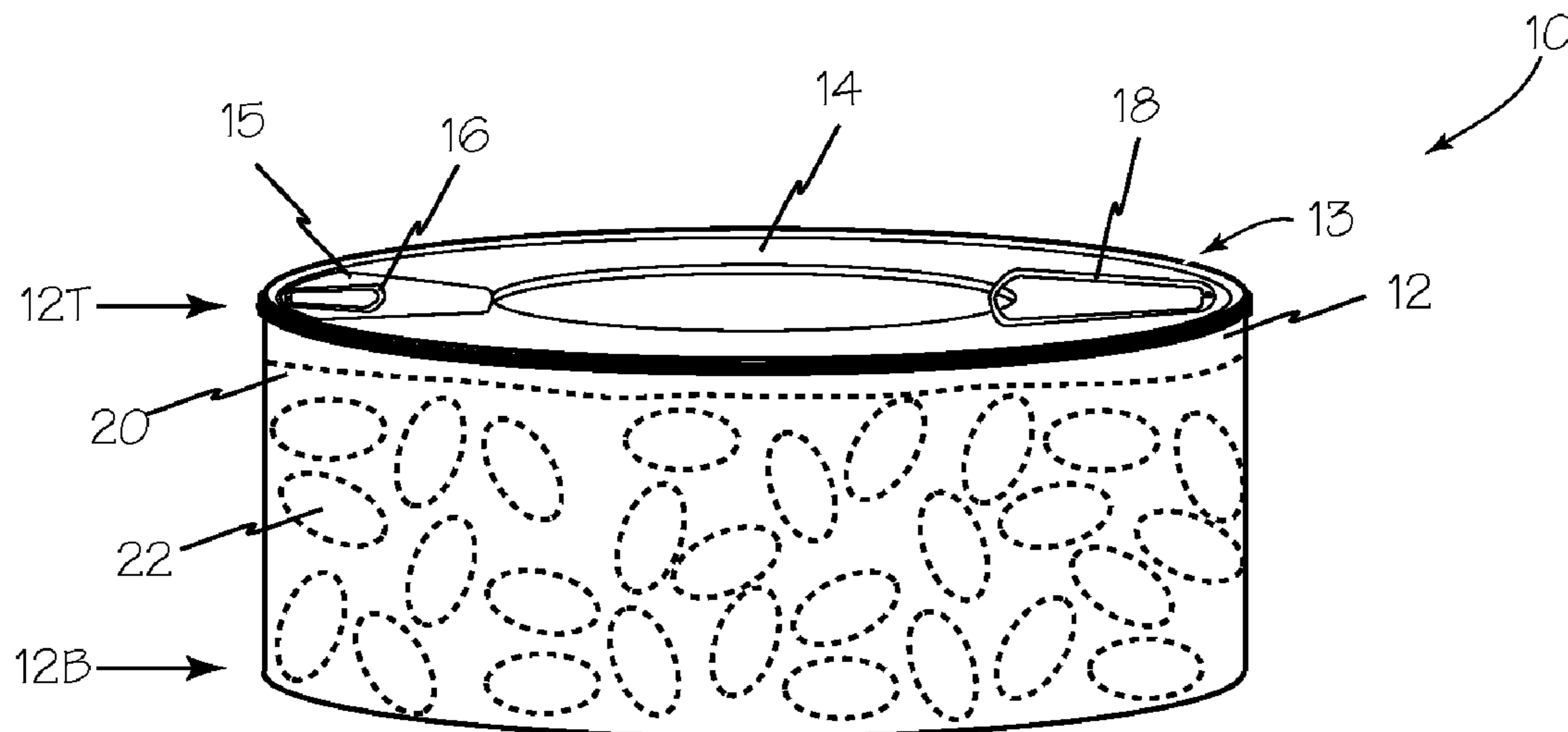
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A single use packing and dispensing technique includes a filter element as part of the packaging to permit a user to drain the packing fluid while retaining the primary package contents such as pickles, olives, canned vegetables, fruit, canned meats, poultry and fish. A strainer may be incorporated into any suitable aspect of the packaging along with a removable sealing element.

4 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



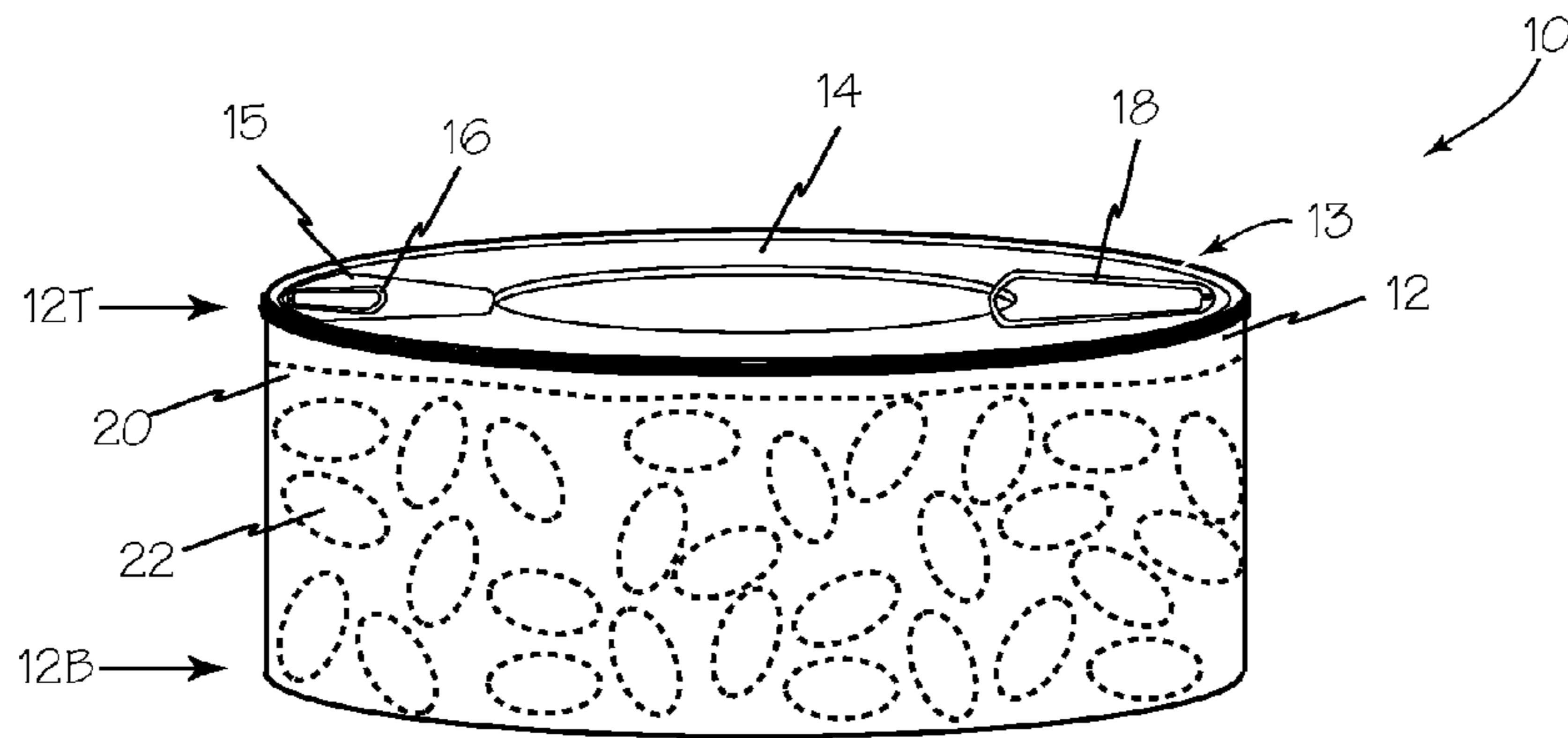


Fig. 1

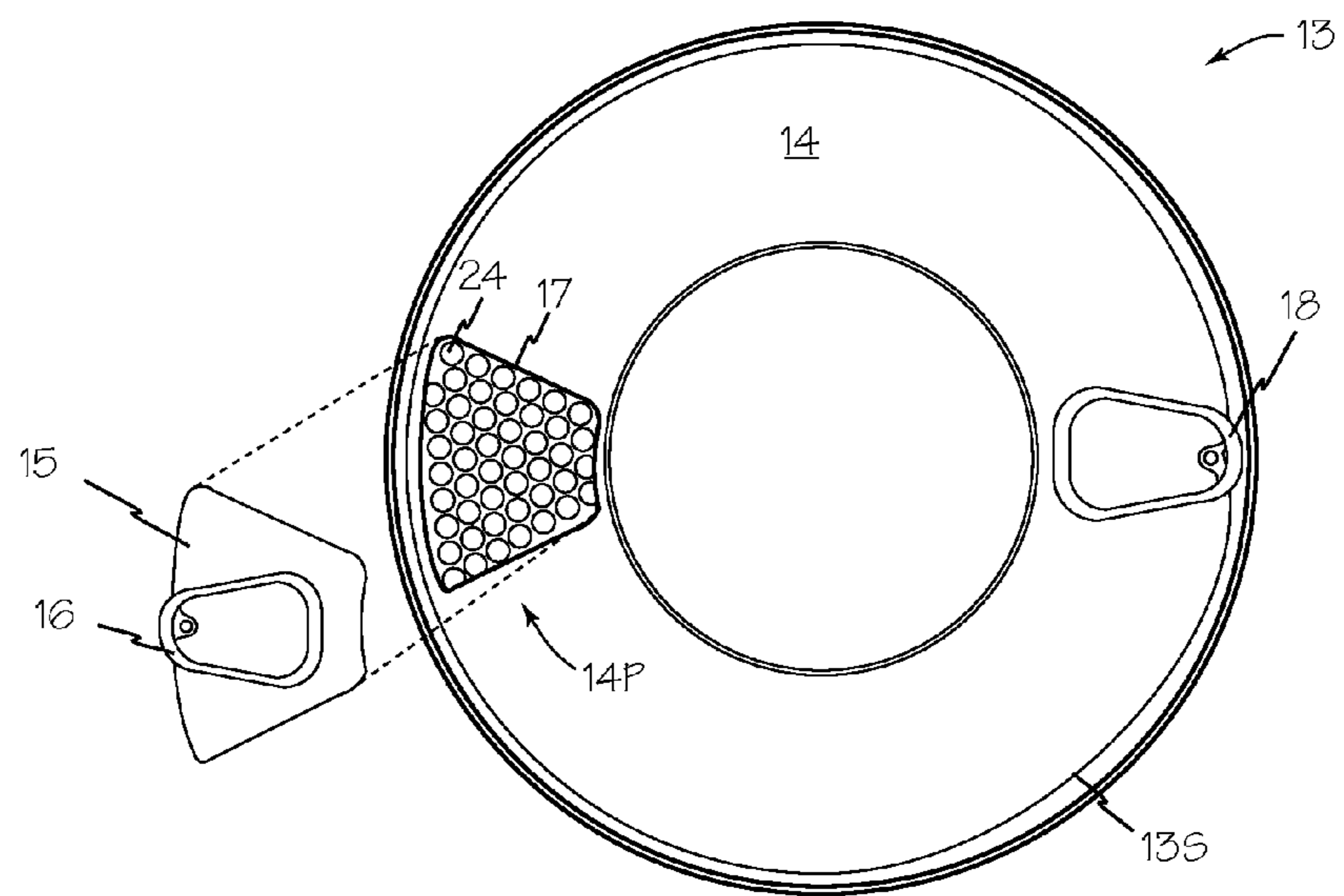


Fig. 2

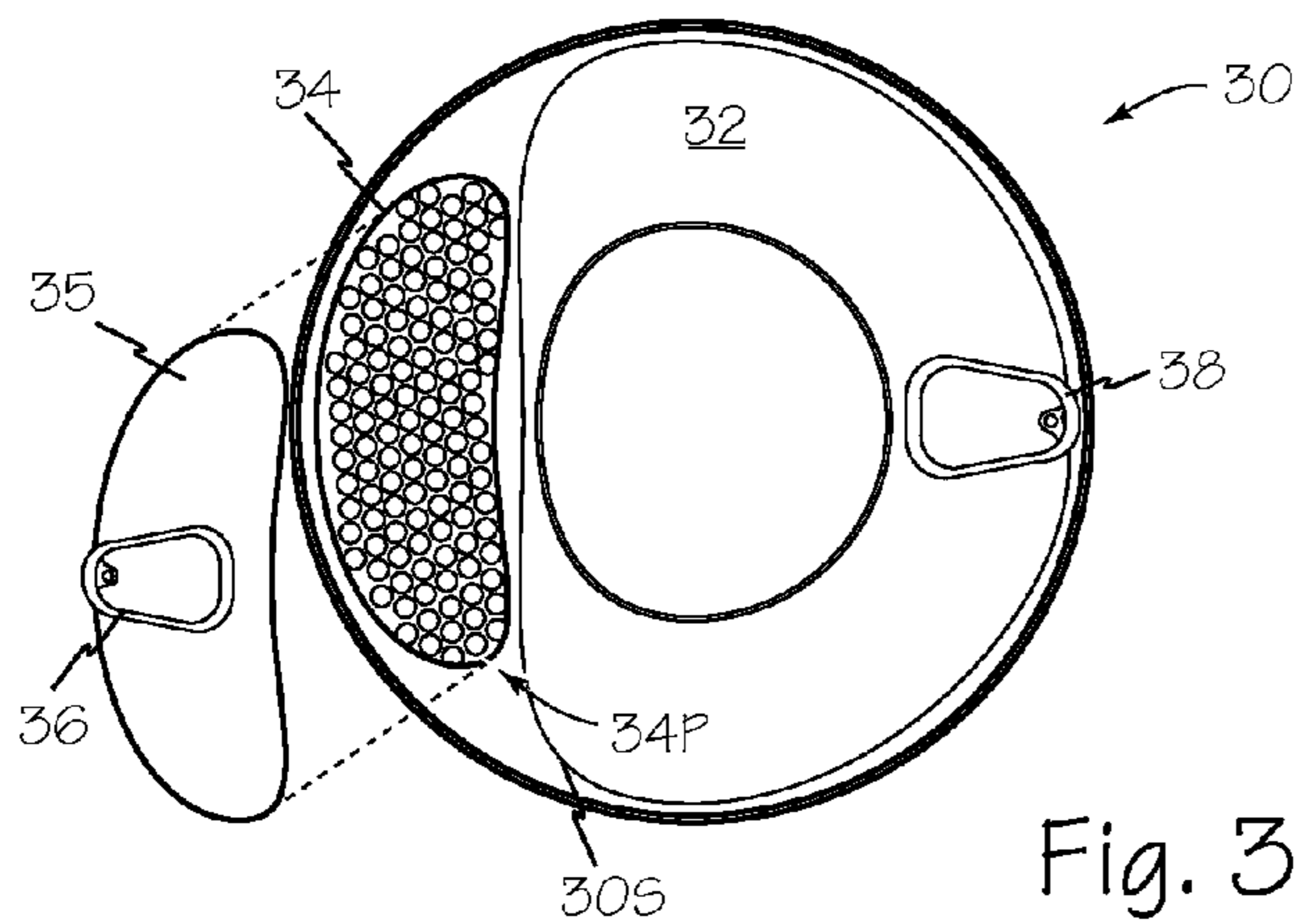


Fig. 3

1**PRODUCT CONTAINER STRAINER**

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility patent application Ser. No. 12/137,404 filed Jun. 11, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,393,490, which claims priority from U.S. provisional patent application 60/934,204 filed Jun. 11, 2007.

FIELD OF THE INVENTIONS

The inventions described below relate the field of consumer product packaging and more specifically to food packaging for products stored in liquid.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONS

Many people who prepare or serve food have experienced the difficulty of opening a container of food that contains liquid packaging such as pickles, olives, canned vegetables, canned meats, poultry and fish and faced the challenge of draining the liquid.

SUMMARY

A packing and dispensing technique according to the present disclosure includes a filter element as part of the packaging to permit a user to drain the packing fluid while retaining the primary package contents. The strainer element is incorporated into any suitable surface of the packaging and is sealed during processing. Opening or breaking the strainer seal permits the packing fluid to be removed and the primary package contents to be retained in the container.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a product container including a strainer end.

FIG. 2 is a top view of a product strainer end and sealing element.

FIG. 3 is a top view of an alternate product strainer end and sealing element.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTIONS

Single use product container **10** of FIG. 1 is formed using container body **12** and strainer end **13**. Container body **12** is generally cylindrical with a sealed end **12B** and an open end **12T** fitted with strainer end **13**. Strainer end **13** is shaped and sized similar to conventional can ends which are generally roll-cripped or otherwise sealed to the can body. Strainer end **13** also includes strainer **17** occupying portion **14P** of removable top **14**. With strainer sealing element **15** in place on end **13**, primary contents **22**, such as pickles, olives or other contents and packing fluid **20**, may be secured, sealed and heat sterilized within product container **10** using any suitable technique. Strainer end **13** includes a pull ring or tab **18** for removing top **14** and strainer section **17** as shown in FIG. 2. Strainer section **17** may occupy any suitable portion such as portion **14P** of the removable lid and may include a suitable number of openings such as opening **24** which may adopt any suitable shape such as, but not limited to, round, polygonal, ovoid, or complex. Strainer section **17** is sealed for distribution using any suitable sealing element **15** that may have a tab or other suitable mechanism such as tab **16** for removal of the sealing element such as sealing element **15**.

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In operation a user may grasp strainer tab **16** and pull to remove sealing element **15**. Product container **10** may then be oriented to permit packing liquid **20** to empty through strainer **17**. Upon completion of the straining of product container **10**, a user may grasp pull tab **18** and lift and pull to remove top **14** from container body **12** along seal **13S** permitting access to primary contents **22**. To expedite the draining process, pull tab **18** may be used to break the seal along scored edge **13S** and provide a vent for introduction of air into the container and allow the packing liquid to drain faster.

Alternate strainer end **30** of FIG. 3, includes strainer **34** separate from removable top **32**. Strainer **34** is sealed during manufacturing, shipping, and storage by sealing element **35**. Pull tab **36** is secured to sealing element **35** and is used to unseal the sealing element and remove the sealing element. Pull tab **38** is used to break the primary seal along score **30S** and remove pull top **32**.

Thus, while the preferred embodiments of the devices and methods have been described in reference to the environment in which they were developed, they are merely illustrative of the principles of the inventions. Other embodiments and configurations may be devised without departing from the spirit of the inventions and the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A container comprising:

a container body having a sealed end and an open end;
a strainer end secured to the container body sealing the open end of the container body, the strainer end including a pull top defined by a scored edge to enable removal of the pull top, the pull top including a strainer formed by an plurality of openings in the pull top;
a sealing element, sealing the strainer;
a first pull tab secured to the sealing element for removing the sealing element from the strainer; and
a second pull tab secured to the pull top for removing the pull top.

2. A method of straining liquid from a container having food packed in liquid, the method comprising the steps:

providing the container as in claim **1**, the container containing food packed in liquid;
pulling a first pull tab to remove the sealing element over the strainer; and
orienting the container to permit the liquid to exit the container through the strainer.

3. The method of claim **2**, after the orienting step, further comprising the step:

pulling the second pull tab secured to the pull top for breaking the seal of the sealed container body to permit the introduction of air into the container as the packing fluid drains.

4. A container for food packed in liquid, the container comprising:

a container body;
a strainer end secured to the container body sealing an open end of the container body, the strainer end including a pull top defined by a scored edge to enable removal of the pull top, the pull top including a first pull tab for removing the pull top and a strainer formed by an array of openings in the pull top, the array of openings sized to permit passage by the fluid and retain the food in the container body;
a sealing element, sealing the strainer; and
a second pull tab secured to the sealing element for removing the sealing element from the strainer.